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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

PROGRESS BULLETIN
GENERAL - NO. 114

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 6, 1940

Allotment of \$170,000 for REA's first complete self-help project was announced today by Harry Slattery, Administrator of Rural Electrification. The project is sponsored by the North Arkansas Electric Cooperative of Salem, Arkansas, to supply electricity to more than 600 farm homes in Sharp, Baxter, Izard and Fulton Counties.

An allotment of \$25,000 for the construction of a locker type community refrigeration plant, located near Monroe, Georgia, was also announced, as well as \$67,000 for the establishment of a distribution system in Virginia, \$370,000 to the New York State Electric and Gas Company for the construction of approximately 337 miles of short extensions to the company's present system, and \$30,000 for miscellaneous construction and operating costs of the Lancaster County Rural Public Power District at Lincoln, Nebraska.

The main feature of the self-help project in Arkansas, set up to suit an area of low income but of a high degree of energy in working for electric service, is that the members of the cooperative will participate in actual construction of the 205 mile system, using their wages to help pay for house wiring, appliances and fixtures. Mr. Slattery made an additional allotment of \$25,000 which the Arkansas cooperative may relend to members to finance the remaining cost of wiring and plumbing installations.

Five hundred members have already paid membership fees and signed contracts for wiring their homes and have granted easements for the lines across their property.

In the construction of this system all labor except technical will be performed by members of the cooperative. They will dig holes, set poles, clear right-of-way, trim trees, drive trucks for the pole line contractor and perform all other tasks not demanding technical attention. When a member has earned \$30, he may draw on this money to help defray cost of wiring his home or buying appliances. If this amount is insufficient, he may borrow the balance from the cooperative. If there is need for additional labor, he may be given the opportunity of earning more than \$30.

This plan will reduce the cost of line construction, and consequently, the amount of money that will have to be repaid to the Government. It also will mean that most of the money spent for labor will be disbursed in the community the cooperative will serve.

In addition to reducing the cost of line construction, plans have been formulated whereby the cost of wiring members' homes will be reduced to a minimum.

As a result of a preliminary survey, members already have agreed to purchase 88 refrigerators, 74 washing machines, 181 radios and 162 irons.

Tenantry in this area runs less than 10 percent, the average farm being about 160 acres in area. Livestock is the predominating type of agriculture, including hogs, cattle and sheep. Some cotton and other crops, such as corn, sorghum, hay and other feedstuffs, are raised.

Details of today's allotments are attached.

ARKANSAS 26 FULTON

North Arkansas Electric
Cooperative, Inc.,
Salem, Arkansas
(Clyde Bryant, President)

\$170,000 to build about 205 miles of line to serve 760 members in Baxter, Izard, Sharp and Fulton Counties.

\$25,000 to finance house wiring and plumbing installations.

GEORGIA 35 WALTON

Walton Electric Membership
Corporation,
Monroe, Georgia
(John L. Snow, Manager)

\$25,000 for the construction of a locker type community refrigeration plant, located near Monroe, Georgia. This system previously has been allotted \$500,000 to build 504 miles of line to serve 2,152 members in Walton, Morgan, Oconee, Barrow, Gwinnett, Newton, Rockdale and DeKalb Counties.

NEBRASKA 24 LANCASTER DISTRICT
PUBLIC

Lancaster County Rural Public
Power District,
Lincoln, Nebraska
(G. Brink, Supt.)

\$30,000 for miscellaneous construction and operating costs. This public power district previously has been allotted \$546,000 to build 474 miles of line to serve 1,240 members in Lancaster, Saunders, Cass and Otoe Counties, and \$10,950 to finance house wiring and plumbing installations.

NEW YORK 18 NYSE&G

New York State Electric and
Gas Company,
Ithaca, New York
(John L. Burgan, Director
of Rural Development)

\$370,000 to construct miscellaneous short extensions to the company's present system, consisting of about 337 miles of line to serve 1,321 customers in Broome, Cortland, Chenango, Tioga, Delaware, Madison, Oneida, Otsego, Herkimer, Sullivan, Wayne, Orange, Ontario, Schuyler, Steuben, Yates, Cayuga, Onondaga, Tompkins, Seneca, Chemung, Livingston, Alleghany, Cattaraugus, Chataqua, Columbia, Saratoga and Washington Counties. This company previously has been allotted \$1,375,000 to build 1,162 miles of line to serve 6,932 customers in 40 counties, including those listed above.

SOUTH CAROLINA 14 AIKEN

Aiken Electric Cooperative, Inc.,
Aiken, South Carolina
(T. W. Henderson, Supt.)

\$25,000 for the construction of a locker type community refrigeration plant, located near Aiken, South Carolina. This system previously has been allotted \$404,000 to build 499 miles of line to serve 1,494 members in Aiken, Orangeburg, Saluda, Edgefield, Calhoun, Lexington, Barnwell and McCormick Counties, and \$5,000 to finance house wiring and plumbing installations.

VIRGINIA 38 LOUDOUN

Tri-County Electric Cooperative,
Leesburg, Virginia
(W. J. Wignall, Pres.)

\$67,000 to build about 72 miles of line to serve 209 members in Loudoun, Fairfax and Prince William Counties.

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